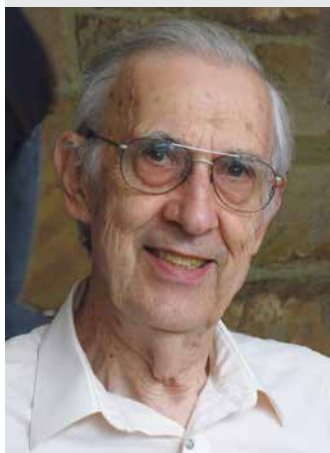


The Worm Project

Combating World Hunger Through Parasite Removal

Newsletter

Issue No 17 Autumn 2019



The Claude Good you may not have known 1929 - 2019

Written by son Carl Good and adapted by daughter Ceci Good for the annual Worm Project Banquet.

Many of you might not know much about Claude Good other than his role in the Worm Project. Although Dad focused mainly on The Worm Project in his last 25 years, there was a lot more in his life that led him down this path.

Dad was born in Spring City, Pennsylvania in 1929. Several tragedies struck his family that greatly impacted his life and the lives of his 8 siblings. A few months after Dad's birth, his brother Webster, the oldest of nine children, died of meningitis. Six years later Dad's mother Hannah—a vibrant, loving woman—died of complications after giving birth to Claude's youngest brother. Our grandfather remarried a few years later, but his children found it hard to adjust to a stepmother. Grandpa Good himself had endured other personal tragedies in his lifetime, and found it difficult to communicate well with his children, although Dad did remember moments when his father did express his love. Grandpa Good also



Claude (middle with dark hair) and his siblings

left a strong imprint on his children with his creative, adventurous mind and his skill as an inventor. The downside was that he was always buying gadgets, parts and farm implements that had to be organized. This memory was likely the reason Dad always hated clutter.

As farmers, Dad's family coped with challenging circumstances mostly through hard work, working daily from before dawn till nightfall. His schooling ended after 8th grade.

One of the most notable things about Dad was the way he responded to his difficult early childhood years. Instead of feeling trapped by bad memories, he constantly opened his imagination to new challenges. One day at church Dad's imagination was further awakened by a visiting men's quartet from Eastern Mennonite College.



The spirit of the singers inspired him to take high school equivalency exams and attend EMC in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

It was during college that Dad met our mother, Alice Longenecker. They shared faith ideals as well as a strong sense of adventure.

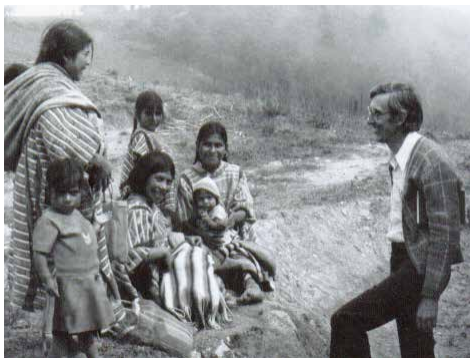
As a conscientious objector to serving in the military he performed two years of alternative service at the

mental health ward of Philadelphia State Hospital after college. Mom joined him in this work during the second year. They were both deeply affected by the experience of working with mental health patients at a time when methods of treatment were often less than optimal. The following year they returned to Harrisonburg, and Dad took courses at Eastern Mennonite Seminary while Mom worked as an elementary school teacher. That year they responded to an invitation from the Franconia Mission Board to move to Mexico as missionaries. In preparation, Dad and Mom first went to Cornell University, where Dad got his master's degree in rural sociology while Mom worked in a biology lab. Our sister discovered something that surprised all of us, that Dad had more anthropology classes in his lifetime than she has with a PhD in Anthropology.

In Mexico Dad and Mom worked in a small indigenous village in a highland cloud forest in the southern state of Oaxaca. They performed basic medical work, including deworming, and encouraged the growth of a Christian community. Dad also devoted himself to literacy and Bible translation. He consulted on the translation of the first New Testament into Triqui, compiled a dictionary in the language, completed an Old Testament summary, and translated the New Testament into a second dialect of Triqui.

Although life in the Oaxaca mountains was full of beauty, it also came with many difficulties and challenges. Dad was often called away on medical trips, walking for many hours up and down steep paths and through forests, to provide treatment. He would often take one or two of us children along. Dad loved the outdoors and with his biology background, was always in teaching mode.

Dad also built many things, he had a bit of his father's inventive spirit. Over the years he designed and built two homes for our family, dug drainage ditches, installed flooring, and did carpentry and painting. He also did things like stocking the local lake with fish, using solar energy to build a very basic shower for the community, and bringing in healthy chickens and pigs to improve their breeds.



In 1985 our parents moved back to the U.S. partly due to a political environment in Mexico that was making life a bit difficult for foreign missionaries.

The tipping point

came when a bomb exploded against Mom and Dad's car as they were driving into their Mexico City apartment complex. Although one side of the car was destroyed, neither of them was hurt. Dad brushed off the incident, but administrators back in Franconia were alarmed.

After he and Mom moved back to this area, Dad made regular trips back to Oaxaca to relate to the local church community. Back in Philadelphia he also led an outreach program for international students and at several Philadelphia colleges and universities, taught his own style of conversational ESL classes. He would think up very thoughtful questions for his classes. He told me one time that he felt that through this work he was reaching a much larger audience, because the students he was teaching at these highly regarded universities would very likely become influential leaders in their own countries. He loved the students and they loved him, usually giving him gifts and sending letters afterwards from around the world.

It was on one of his trips back to Mexico that a second phase of Dad's life began. While buying medicines in a Mexico City pharmacy in the early 1990s he found a new, highly effective medication for intestinal worms being sold at a very low price. He and Mom had often treated Triqui children for worms, and they knew how devastating this problem can be for impoverished communities.

In 1998 Dad officially launched the Worm Project after several years of preparation. The initiative eventually grew



Dad with the board and some of his "Worm Warriors" in 2012

to include a team of board members, and its work began multiplying in countries around the world. Thanks to the collaboration of many other dedicated people and partners (Worm Warriors), the Worm Project has impacted the lives of millions of children around the world.

Up until his final moments, Dad was still driven by the fight to eradicate intestinal worms. His dreams and thoughts about the Worm Project were literally what kept him going during his final years, which he spent mostly lying in bed in his room at Souderton Mennonite Homes.

We believe that Dad's uncommon devotion to the Worm Project came out of his lifelong desire to see other people released from bondage, especially the least privileged. Parasitic worms take away children's ability to grow, experience enthusiasm, and feel hope. We believe Dad saw himself in these children. On some level, they reminded him of the difficulties he himself had experienced as a child, and he wanted to do all he could to help them respond to their circumstances like he himself had been able to do in his life.



Dad counting coins for the Worm Project

Thanks!

Over 200 people attended our annual benefit banquet on Sept. 21. Thank you to all of you!



Protecting Tomorrows

By Kim Saam

Photos © Vitamin Angels / Marie Arago

Denis gripped his bright red sunglasses, tilted his head back, and opened wide to receive his dose of Albendazole. This wasn't his first distribution and, it seemed, he was proud to show the Vitamin Angels team that he knew exactly what to do.

After swallowing the powdered tablet, the cheerful four-year-old was quick to flash a big smile for the camera. Maria, Denis' mother, observed the interaction with approval.



Accessing affordable medical care in the community of Masica, Honduras can be a challenge; all the more so for Maria, a single mother of four. When the local health center began deworming and vitamin distributions couple

years ago, word traveled fast. Families were keen to share how their children's health was improving, and Maria's interest was piqued. The ease of access and the community's blessing were significant reasons to attend, and Maria began taking all four of her children to receive deworming. Maria said Denis used to suffer from frequent stomach issues; however, since he started receiving Albendazole, his energy and appetite have increased. Denis now eats even more baleadas, eggs, and bean soup every day!

Now that her children's health has improved, Maria rests a bit easier, taking time to enjoy watching them grow and discovering what they love to do.



BOOK UPDATE

If you enjoyed reading the lead article in this newsletter, you will be excited to hear that the full story of Claude and Alice's unique and extraordinary life, including how the Worm Project started, is scheduled to be available in book form next year in time for the 2020 banquet.

Thank You to Our Business Sponsors



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The Worm Project: What we do:

The Worm Project buys medicine to treat children infected with parasitic worms in the poorest countries of the world.

- Over 800 million children (roughly 1/4 of the world's children) are at risk of being infected with parasitic worms
 - Parasitic worms cause physical and cognitive impairment in children due to malnutrition
- The Worm Project purchased and distributed enough deworming medicine to treat 10 million children in 2018
- Each deworming tablet costs roughly 2 cents and treats one child for parasitic worms
 - One tablet kills virtually all the worms living in children
 - Medicine is extremely effective and safe
- All-volunteer Christian organization is extremely cost effective
 - Expenses are extremely low
 - Donations are tax deductible

*"... Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."
(Matthew 25:40 NIV)*



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